

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 BRUSSE 06368 311833Z  
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W  
-----063448 311846Z /70

P 311739Z MAR 78  
FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5792  
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY  
USMISSION USNATO PRIORITY  
USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY

S E C R E T BRUSSELS 06368

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1  
TAGS: PARM, NATO, SALT, GW, BE  
SUBJECT: NEXT STEPS ON NON-CIRCUMVENTION

REF: A) STATE 69375, B) STATE 77597

1. AFTER CONSULTING WITH USNATO RE CANCELLATION OF MARCH 29 NAC,  
WE MADE DEMARCHE PER REFTELS WITH DIRECTOR NATO AFFAIRS AT BELGIAN  
FOREIGN MINISTRY, ERIK BAL, WHO PARTICIPATED IN FEBRUARY 24 NAC  
MEETING.

2. BAL'S FIRST REACTION WAS TO ASK WHETHER A PARALLEL DEMARCHE WAS  
BEING MADE TO BELGIANS AT NATO. REGRETTING WHAT HE DESCRIBED AS  
A "REGRETTABLE U.S. TENDENCY TO BILATERALISM", HE EXPRESSED VIEW  
THAT SUCH DEMARCHES SHOULD BE HANDLED BOTH IN NATO AS WELL AS IN  
BILATERAL FRAMEWORK.

3. AFTER SAYING THAT HE HAD BEEN ONE OF THOSE WHO HAD RAISED QUES-  
TIONS AT FEBRUARY 24 NAC MEETING, BAL PROVIDED WHAT HE DESCRIBED AS  
"FIRSTGLANCE" COMMENTS ON TALKING POINTS PROVIDED REF A.

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A. BAL SAID THAT, AS HE HAD ON FEBRUARY 24, HE WANTED TO AGAIN  
STRESS POLITICAL IMPORTANCE OF THE NON-CIRCUMVENTION QUESTION.  
IT IS VERY IMPORTANT FOR THE ALLIANCE THAT THERE NOT BE STATEMENTS  
THAT CAN BE INTERPRETED BY OTHERS AS SIGNALLING A WEAKENING OF THE  
COOPERATION AND SOLIDARITY BETWEEN ALLIES.

B. WHILE AGREEING WITH THE FIRST TALKING POINT THAT NO LEGAL OBLIGATION WAS INVOLVED, BAL SAID THAT THE FACT THAT SUCH A STATEMENT IS TO BE ADDED TO A TEXT DOES HAVE A CERTAIN SIGNIFICANCE. IT IS IMPORTANT HOW THE SOVIETS WILL INTERPRET THE STATEMENT.

C. REGARDING THE THIRD TALKING POINT, BAL SAID THAT PROPOSED STATEMENT WOULD NEVERTHELESS PROVIDE THE SOVIETS WITH A FOOHOLD. THE SOVIETS, MOREOVER, COULD USE A DIFFERENT INTERPRETATION OF THE STATEMENT WHEN DEALING WITH THE WEAKER EUROPEAN STATES THAN WHEN DEALING WITH THE U.S.

4. BAL MADE CLEAR THAT THE BELGIANS WILL EXPRESS THEIR CONCERN ABOUT THE POLITICAL IMPORTANCE OF THE PROPOSED STATEMENT WHEN THE QUESTION IS NEXT RAISED. AS A FINAL COMMENT, HE SAID THAT STATEMENTS (RE HUMAN RIGHTS) IN THE HELSINKI AGREEMENT HAD BEEN IMPORTANT DESPITE WHAT SOME PEOPLE HAD SAID AT THE TIME. SUCH STATEMENTS CAN BE IMPORTANT, HE POINTED OUT, EVEN IF NO "LEGAL OBLIGATION" IS INVOLVED. CHAMBERS

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** DEMARCHE, SALT (ARMS CONTROL), NEGOTIATIONS, ARMS CONTROL MEETINGS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 31 mar 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
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**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**TAGS:** PARM, GE, BE, US, NATO  
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**Review Markings:**  
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